

Inside OUT

The Newsletter of the CDC/HRSA Corrections Demonstration Projects

Produced six times a year through the collaboration of

Correctional Technical Assistance and Training Project of SEATEC and the National Minority AIDS Council

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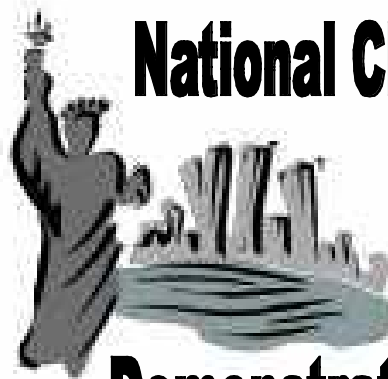
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National CBO Meeting for the CDC/HRSA Demonstration Project July 11-12, 2001 - New York

The National CBO Meeting for the CDC/HRSA Corrections Demonstration Project was held on July 11-12, 2001 at the Hotel Pennsylvania in New York City. Representatives from all seven states participating in the Demonstration Project were present at the meeting: California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, and New York. This two-day meeting was a mixed format of plenary presentations, break-out sessions, round tables and focus groups. A vast amount of networking, professional development and information exchange occurred for the CBO service delivery personnel involved in discharge planning and peer education with HIV positive/ high risk negative inmates and ex-offenders.

An array of photographs from the meeting can be found in this issue. A formal report and evaluation will be available in a future issue of *Inside OUT*.



State Report: Massachusetts



FOCUS ON...

THE PEER-LED PREVENTION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM IN THE OCC (OFFICE OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS)

By: Marjorie Dunne, SEATEC

Massachusetts has initiated a unique public health initiative that has attracted the interest of community based organizations, public health departments, and corrections programs nationwide. Funding from the CDC and HRSA has enabled Massachusetts to develop this program in collaboration with the state's Department of Public Health.

The program trains and certifies former inmates as Communicable Disease Peer Educators. Along with Department of Public Health funded AIDS service providers, these former inmates help facilitate HIV prevention classes in the community. The audience for these classes consists of high-risk probationers, pre-release inmates and parolees who are part of a non-residential program in Massachusetts known as OCC (Office of Community Corrections). The curriculum focuses on prevention of HIV, STDs, TB and Hepatitis.

Using former inmates as peer educators has been a plus for the program as their experiences "inside the walls" make their stories and their advice especially relevant to the high risk groups they educate. As an extra prevention measure, condoms are made available during the classes, and attendees can receive specific referral information to public health clinics offering additional screening. For the inmates, there are several incentives to participate as peer-educators. Not only are they paid for their services, but they also have the possibility of being offered stable employment through many of the CBOs who are in need of prevention education staff. Moreover, their decision to participate as group leaders reinforces a positive lifestyle decision to reduce risks and maintain health.

The implementation of the program is not without its challenges. Massachusetts CORI (Criminal Offender Record Information) regulations prevent some Sheriff Departments from employing any ex-offenders. The Executive Office of Health and Human Services in Massachusetts also has guidelines which may disqualify many applicants based on the nature of their crimes. The fact that some participating ex-offenders have relapsed further complicates this process.

In spite of these challenges, Massachusetts has had success using ex-offenders as peer educators and is committed to this program. In the words of Lisa Crowner, Correctional Manager for the HIV/AIDS Bureau at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health: "Using inmates as peer educators allows our high risk population to hear firsthand about HIV and disease prevention. An ex-offender knows the language, knows the risks, and knows how to tell the story in a way that only someone who has been on the inside can."

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Professional Corner

Snapshot of: Maestro Evans

One of the most interesting first meetings I have ever witnessed was that of last month's featured professional, Lisa Crowner of Massachusetts, and Maestro Evans of Georgia. Two of the most passionate and committed people I have met in the world of HIV and Corrections, Lisa and Maestro sat on the patio outside the ACHSA Conference Hotel in March and shared stories, hopes, challenges, successes and disappointments like they had been friends for years. When I asked Lisa later how she would describe Maestro, this is what she said:

"A tall, handsome African American man with awesome dreadlocks and a Southern drawl. He said "y'all" more than anyone I've ever known!"

It is difficult to capture the essence of Maestro because he is so unique. Begin with his name – why Maestro? Webster defines "maestro" as "one who is accomplished in a specialized field; a master or teacher of an art." Maestro didn't question the source of his name until, at the age of twenty-one, a friend's inquiry led him to ask his parents about it. Says Maestro: "My daddy said he named me that because he knew I was born to be a leader." Blessed with this kind of destiny, Maestro Evans has become an icon of social consciousness in the Atlanta community, helping inmates, substance abusers and the mentally ill. He has initiated numerous programs for the welfare of both adults and children, and continues to facilitate and run many of them.



Maestro's role in the Corrections Demonstration Project for the state of Georgia is that of Supervisor of the Correctional Transition Program at Fulton County Jail. Working out of AID Atlanta, Georgia's largest community based organization, Maestro is in charge of case management for the HIV positive inmates. Many of these inmates have never had services, and he works with the staff to help with discharge planning. Along with two full time case managers in the jail, two more in the community and two peer counselors from Outreach Incorporated, Maestro reviews every aspect of the individual's history and health in an attempt to understand the complexities underlying incarceration, particularly if it appears to be cyclical. He evaluates their health history, their mental status, their employment history, their financial situation, their family background and support systems, substance abuse and legal issues. As an advocate for legal justice and access to care, inmates say he is unmatched; in their words, "he can make it work."

A recent heart attack seems to have been the only way to make Maestro taper his normal pace and reduce his workload to something less than the 12-18 hour days that he typically logged in. His life now has become a

“slow moving thing.” He is eating a healthier diet, his best friend moved in with him, and he hears more from his friends and family (his mother now calls three times a day). In short, he is trying to simplify his life.

Born and raised in Atlanta, Georgia, Maestro grew up wanting to be an investigative reporter. He worked at the Atlanta newspaper his senior year in high school, and went on to the University of Georgia where he majored in Journalism. He later switched to a major in speech communications, a field he says has served him well in establishing links with people across regions and neighborhoods. A burgeoning interest in law led him to take the position of Communications Officer with the Atlanta Police Department working as a 911 Emergency Dispatcher during the night shift where, he reports, “a lot of interesting things happened.” His next job as a parole officer with the Georgia Board of Pardons and Parole gave him experience in working with a wide range of parolees---geriatric and youthful offenders, HIV positive men and women, the mentally ill and substance abusers. When he couldn’t pass the requirement to shoot a gun at 80% accuracy (his score was 75%), he went to work for Georgia Charlee (now called CHRIS homes), a group home agency. There he served as a live-in supervisor for foster care youths in the last stages before becoming legally independent adults. In this capacity he lived in an apartment building with 6 to 7 teenagers at a time, teaching them how to keep a checking account, grocery shop, and generally function in society.

His calling to be a social worker led him to Clark Atlanta University School of Social Work where he studied for his MSW while working full time at an inpatient mental health and substance abuse facility, Anchor Hospital. In 1994 he came to AID Atlanta as a case manager and worked with the StreetHome program that he currently continues to supervise. Maestro’s goal was to develop a day treatment program, which he succeeded in doing. The StreetHome program was housed in the basement of the Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, a famous church in Atlanta that was the only building Sherman did not burn during the Civil War (due to the passionate pleas of the priest). It was also in this basement that Maestro and his associates regularly held HIV and substance abuse education classes with indigent people who needed support and compassionate caring. StreetHome now has its own offices in the Fourth Ward, Edgewood neighborhood of Atlanta and serves as a drop-in center for homeless substance abusers, providing case management, one-on-one counseling and social services

As Project Director of Corrections and Substance Abuse Programs at AID Atlanta, Maestro might be expected to have a fancy business card, but this is a man who carries no card and who gave up his office at StreetHome for the new case managers. He carries instead a Bible which he reads every day. Inspired by Christ, his “best friend,” Maestro’s goal is to listen to everybody, and to listen with empathy. Says Maestro: “Everyone has a ministry in life, and mine is my job.” When his mother once asked him why he does what he does, he told her he is motivated by the story in Luke, Chapter 15, wherein the shepherd who has a large flock of sheep leaves them to find the one who is lost because that is the one who most needs his help.

And what does Maestro do for pure enjoyment? “Read, watch old movies, write poetry.” His strongest influence? An excerpt from a message he recently wrote and read at the reunion of his large family best answers this: “I ask you to teach me about your past so that I may forge my future...Every time you feel the spirit of our ark, know that each one of you is a single individual thread that is part of one great complicated quilt that tells our story.” Maestro says his mantra growing up is a quote from his grandmother: “Be the labor great or small, do it well or not at all.”

Maestro, your labor is indeed great, and you are doing it exceedingly well.

By: Marjorie Dunne,
SEATEC



Urban Institute Releases First Comprehensive Report on Prisoner Reentry Data, Policies, and Challenges

TAKEN DIRECTLY FROM THE URBAN INSTITUTE WEBSITE AT
WWW.URBAN.ORG/NEWS/PRESSREL/PR010613.HTML
Contact: Renu Shukla (202) 261-5278, rshukla@ui.urban.org

The most comprehensive resource to date on prisoner re-entry was released on June 13, 2001 by the Urban Institute at a forum co-sponsored by the National Governors' Association Center on Best Practices and the National Criminal Justice Association. The information will be particularly useful to local jurisdictions as they respond to the availability of nearly \$100 million in new federal grants to help improve the transitions of released prisoners into communities.

"From Prison to Home: The Dimensions and Consequences of Prisoner Reentry,"

by Jeremy Travis, Amy Solomon, and Michelle Waul, examines all aspects of prisoner reentry - from preparation for release to post-prison supervision. It identifies and addresses the challenges facing many released prisoners, such as substance abuse, health problems, employment obstacles and housing shortages, as well as the impact of their return on their families and neighborhoods.

"With more than 600,000 prisoners being released each year, we have an enormous responsibility and challenge to enhance public safety and improve reintegration in communities most affected by reentry," notes Travis, an Urban Institute senior fellow and former director of the National Institute of Justice. "The monograph examines prisoner reentry from all related policy perspectives, giving communities and policymakers the knowledge they need for prisoner reintegration efforts that can benefit communities, families and returning prisoners alike."

"From Prison to Home: The Dimensions and Consequences of Prisoner Reentry" is available from the Urban Institute Website at www.urban.org.



Sponsored by Centerforce

Inside-Out: Bridging Public Health and Corrections

2nd Annual Conference
"Creating a Continuum of Programs"

October 15-17, 2001
Hilton San Diego Mission Valley

This conference will:

Identify Current Best Practices
Assess Obstacles
Brainstorm Solutions
Explore Issues and Opportunities

...for prevention and transitional care prior to and upon release from custody, and for people in jail or prison at risk for and/or infected with HIV, Hepatitis, Tuberculosis, and/or other STDs.

For more information regarding this conference, Please contact Mick Gardner at (415) 456-9980 x112 or via email at mlgardner@centerforce.org



National CBO Meeting for the



National Minority AIDS Council Staff (L to R) Teresa Brown, Program Assistant; Rachel Maddow, Consultant; Carlos Arboleda, Director of Treatment Education, Advocacy and Training



(L to R) Reggie Caldwell, California Corrections Demonstration Grant Project Director; Otha Lee, Illinois, Case Manager, VIC HIV/AIDS Project



(L to R) Brenda Goldhammer, California, STD/HIV Prevention Training Center, Correction Training Coordinator; Jackie Zalumas, Georgia, Project Director, CTAT/SEATEC



Front Row (L to R) Elizabeth Kyalo, Guest Speaker from Africa; Bernadette Harris-Williams, Checkmate, Inc., New Jersey, Back Row (L to R) Carmen Centeno-Wey, HIV Specialist/Case Manager, VNA of Central Jersey; Maritza Feliciano, HIV Specialist, VNA of Central Jersey; Barbara Slotnick, Nurse Case Manager, VNA of Central Jersey; Barb Bunkley, Project Coordinator, VNA of Central Jersey.

CDC/HRSA Demonstration Project



(L to R – Front Row) Georgia: Jay-Paul Kirk, Case Manager, AID Atlanta; Lamegra Garner, Case Manager, AID Atlanta; Chava Bowden, Corrections Case Manager, AID Atlanta; Jeffery Brock, Data Manager, Georgia Division of Public Health; (L to R – Back Row) Maestro Evans, Project Director, Corrections and Substance Abuse, AID Atlanta; Sharon Ramos, Case Manager, AID Atlanta; Kevin Ramos, Operations Analyst II, Department of Juvenile Justice; Mason Stanford, Communicable Disease Specialist, Georgia DHR – Division of Public Health



(L to R) Rural Opportunities, New York: Ken Siegel, Prison Programs Administrator; Jaime Rivera, Public Health Educator/Facilitator



(L to R) South Shore AIDS Project, Inc., Massachusetts: Betsey Sands, TIP Team; Sonney Mansfield, TIP Team; Edith White, Executive Director



Nichole Thierry, California; Otha Lee, Illinois; Josephine Powers, New York; John Delgado, Florida



Centerforce

San Quentin, CA

By: Marjorie Dunne, SEATEC

Interview with:

Katie Kramer, Director of Programs

There is probably no CBO (Community Based Organization) in the Corrections Demonstration Project that is better known than California's *Centerforce*. A dynamic, innovative organization, *Centerforce* is headquartered in the little village outside San Quentin State Prison, and is firmly committed to its mission to "strengthen individuals and families affected by incarceration through a comprehensive system of education and support."

Centerforce has a long and interesting history, evolving from a program begun in the early 1970's. Recognizing an urgent need for services to family and friends visiting inmates in California state prisons, the original program provided childcare, shelter, and transportation for visitors. Later, the program expanded to include health fairs, bicycle repair, health education, support groups, and holiday parties. The early *Centerforce* organization also had a "clothing exchange" program that offered shirts, pants, and even bras to the visitors. The exchange provided clothes for those who would not otherwise have passed the strict inspection required before entering the facility (e.g., underwire bras set off metal detectors).

Always creative, forward thinking and politically savvy, *Centerforce* was able to acquire a large contract with the California DOC (Department of Corrections) early in its organizational history. Through intensive lobbying, legislation was passed in California that not only mandated the type of services *Centerforce* was providing, but also set up funding for it as well. The legislation passed, which is still in force today, also stipulated that an outside agency, not DOC, would run the program.

A new direction to the program came in 1997 when a health programs division of *Centerforce* was established. Barry Zack, current Executive

programs at San Quentin since 1986 for a local AIDS project. Barry's program provided health education and resources for inmates about to be released. His vision was to expand beyond San Quentin and beyond HIV in helping inmates to transition back to the community. *Centerforce* embraced Barry's program, and a new focus of *Centerforce* work was born.

Today, through the Corrections Demonstration Project, *Centerforce* is focused primarily on programs that provide health education, information, and support services to the incarcerated communities at San Quentin and the Central California Women's Facility. The "Get Connected" Project has three components: Peer Education, Re-Entry Education, and Prevention Case Management. The *Centerforce* staff provides 30 hours of intensive health and skill-building training to inmates, and those inmates then facilitate daily health education workshops for newly arriving inmates. For those inmates preparing for release, *Centerforce* staff, peer educators, and community speakers provide workshops on relevant health topics. The prevention case management component of the program provides five months of intensive transitional support, including one-on-one client-centered case management, development of individual risk assessment and reduction action plans, and post release support through referrals to community-based agencies. A new expanded version of this project reflects the creativity that is the hallmark of *Centerforce* programs. This new pilot project will utilize a more comprehensive approach to transition planning and will include case managers working not only with the inmate, but also with the partner/family of the inmate both before and after release.

Other programs run by *Centerforce* include a literacy project, which meets five nights per week with inmates at San Quentin, and two parenting projects at the Marin County Jail. These projects utilize weekly parenting/support groups and one-on-one meetings with participants to help them meet the challenges of being an incarcerated parent.

Centerforce also has a research component in its program. Currently the organization is involved with two research projects. The HIP HOP Project

AIDS Prevention Studies. This project works with men between the ages of 18 and 29 who are being released to the Bay Area. The program assesses their risk related behaviors and helps them develop a risk reduction plan. In addition, participants are given up to five months of prevention case management, including referrals for jobs, education, and substance abuse programs. A second study Centerforce just launched in May 2001 is an HIV, HBV, HCV Sero-Incidence study. This study is a collaborative effort between Centerforce, the California State Health Department (Office of AIDS) and the California Department of Corrections. This study will follow 500 newly arriving inmates at San Quentin for 6 months. Participants will participate in a risk assessment interview, blood draws for HIV, HBV, HCV, and post-test counseling both at baseline and 6 months after enrollment.

Says Katie Kramer, Director of Programs for *Centerforce*: “We are in a great time in this organization with new and creative funding. *Centerforce* has an excellent balance between research and service. Research guides our services, and the researchers learn a lot from people doing the work. The communication between the two strengthens our efforts. Another important feature of *Centerforce* is that it is a Corrections based organization versus an AIDS based organization. We are seen as an ‘inside/outside’ organization so that we do not face many of the barriers other CBOs encounter.”

One of the projects *Centerforce* is particularly proud of is their work in developing a prison peer health education training program. Developed by Katie in collaboration with World Health Communications, the “Reach One Teach One” kit is an outstanding step-by-step training curriculum for inmate peer educators that includes twelve different modules covering thirty hours of instruction. The kit also includes supplementary materials including posters, materials for activities in the curriculum, overheads, and participant handouts. This project is sponsored by GlaxoSmithKline. Kits can be obtained free by contacting your GlaxoSmithKline representative.

The funding from the Corrections Demonstration Project grant is helping *Centerforce* face the challenges involved in moving out of Corrections and into the home community to make connections that help bridge the gap for inmates. With broad vision and focused determination, the *Centerforce* program serves as an outstanding model for all community based organizations working in and around the field of corrections.

The Centerforce Family



1st row L to R –Xochitl Fierro, Yolanda Najera, Katie Kramer, Fay Garcia, Charlie Wilson - 2nd row L to R – Barry Zack, Gonzalo Rucobo, Sheila Inke, Mick Gardner, Amy Mortimore, Annette Lerma, Mobette Nacua, Bill Gong

For more information on *Centerforce*, contact:

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SAVE THE DATE

August 2-5, 2001

5th International HCV Conference
“Hepatitis C on the Frontline of Community Health”
Holiday Inn Golden Gateway, San Francisco, CA
<http://www.hepcglobal.org/01conference.html>
Phone: (650) 369-0330

August 12-15, 2001

2001 CDC National HIV Prevention Conference
Hyatt Regency Atlanta Hotel, Atlanta, GA
<http://www.2001HIVPrevConf.org>
Phone: (404) 233-6446/(877) 884-9342

August 27-29, 2001

4th Semi-Annual CDC/HRSA Corrections
Demonstration Project Grantee Meeting
House of Blues Hotel, A Loews Hotel
333 North Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL
Contact: Keisha Cooper (404) 727-1895

September 13-16, 2001

United States Conference on AIDS (USCA)
Fountainbleau Hilton Resort and Towers
Miami Beach, FL
<http://www.nmac.org/usca2001/home.htm>
Phone: (202) 483-6622 ext. 343

October 16, 2001

Management of HIV/AIDS in the Correctional
Setting: A Live Satellite Videoconference Series
“Antiretroviral Therapy: Charting a Successful
Course”
<http://www.amc.edu/patient/HIV/hivconf.htm>
Phone: (518) 262-4674

November 10-14, 2001

2001 National Conference on
Correctional Health Care
Albuquerque Convention Center, Albuquerque, N
<http://www.ncchc.org/conference/national.htm>
Phone: (773) 880-1460



FUNDING



Young Offender Initiative - [Solicitation](#) (Deadline October 1, 2001)

Information from the website <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/cpo/grants2001/yoi.htm>

The Departments of Justice, Labor and Health and Human Services have issued a request for applications for grants that support the development and implementation of re-entry and related programs for young offenders, ages 14 to 35, to make the transition back to the community. The program is designed to enhance community safety by successfully reintegrating young offenders into the community by helping them become productive, responsible, and law-abiding citizens, obtain and retain long-term employment, maintain a stable residence; and successfully address their substance abuse issues and mental health needs. Approximately \$79 million will be available to fund approximately 25 grants to applicants that demonstrate a collaborative effort and broad-based community support. Eligible applicants must be State or local agencies or units of government, Tribal governments, public or private nonprofit entities designated as 501(c)(3) (examples of which are community-based organizations and faith-based organizations), or local Workforce Investment Boards that have formed partnerships with State and local agencies.

Use the website <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/fundopps.htm> for application information on how to apply for the Young Offender Initiative and for information on other Department of Justice funding opportunities.